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Applicant : Mitsuhiro NOMI et al.
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Frank J. Jordan
(Name of Registered Representative)

01/22/01
(Signature and Date)

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated December 19, 2000, along with Form PTO-1449 and copies of the two cited references listed therein.

The two cited references are in a foreign language. However, a concise explanation is not required because these non-English citations were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office. In such a situation, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by submitting

an English language version of the search report. Such English language version of the search report is enclosed herewith. (See MPEP, Section 609, pages 600-95 and 600-96, Rev. 3, July 1997). Accordingly, a concise explanation relating to these non-English citations are not required.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of the first Official Action. Therefore, there is no charge for filing this IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

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